

## **Appendix A: JRHT Concept Plan; Work Plan Tasks and Community Involvement**

### **James River Heritage Trail - Work Plan Tasks**

1. Establish a detailed and current understanding of the JRHT trail system:
  - a. Map the existing trail system route using GIS and GPS technologies. Identify all public land areas that intersect the trail
  - b. Identify the location and significance of natural communities, unique flora and fauna, soils, geology, topography, hydrology, known and potential historic resources and archaeological areas
  - c. Identify the location and quantity of land ownership types along the trail system, including private, corporate, municipal, conservation, state, and utility
  - d. Identify the location of visitor services features and amenities that complement the recreational trail system experience, including camping, lodging, food services, visitor centers, educational facilities, connecting trails, and trail access sites for both land and water trails.
2. Identify existing stakeholders, and potential new partners that should be engaged in the planning process including:
  - a. Public entities: federal, state, and local agencies; regional governments
  - b. Private entities: businesses, foundations, universities
  - c. Trail advocates: clubs, friends' groups, land trusts, and other non-profits
  - d. Elected officials at all levels
  - e. Technical experts: recreation, conservation, transportation, health, etc
  - f. Landowners: individual, corporate, and utilities
  - g. General public
3. Conduct a variety of public outreach activities designed to further explore the trail concept, and collect input on project goals, issues, priorities, and needs, including:
  - a. Convene five regional forums held in October-November 2009
  - b. Compile written and/or verbal communication with municipal leaders and regional and local technical staff from each of the jurisdictions the trail system passes through
  - c. Convene meetings with state, corporate and utility landowners along the trail
  - d. Host a second round of local stakeholder meetings held in Lexington and Charles City County in November 2010.
  - e. Establish a website and E-newsletter to provide current information about the trail concept planning process and updates on trail development.
4. Identify and evaluate various models and alternatives for successful long-distance trail management and administration in collaboration with corridor stakeholders.
5. Complete a concept plan for the trail that compiles information on existing features, issues and challenges, and outlines a strategy for development of the trail system based on a vision that reflects the concerns of property owners, trail user groups, and other stakeholders.

### **Community Engagement**

Long-term viability of the trail concept can only be achieved with the full involvement of a wide

range of stakeholders including trail managers, planners, technical staff, elected officials, trail advocates, landowners, and other interested parties. Meaningful public involvement has been a central feature of the JRHT planning process, in order to better understand and address diverse trail planning goals and priorities, and to nurture and expand trail partnership opportunities. The following section provides a summary of the forums used to achieve this goal.

#### 1. Virginia Long Distance Trail System - JRHT Scoping Meetings (2008-09)

The JRHT concept plan builds upon ideas and discussions that began in 2008 during the Virginia Long Distance Trails planning process. Several scoping meetings were held in conjunction with the VA Greenways and Trails Task Force initiative to develop a Long Distance Trails Action Agenda for the state, including:

- July 2, 2008: James River Heritage Trail scoping meeting, Richmond, VA
- August 20, 2008: James River Heritage Trail, scoping meeting, Powhatan, VA
- October 2008, Governor's Conference on Greenways and Trail, Richmond, VA
- Jan. 22, 2009, James River Heritage Trail, scoping meeting Lynchburg

#### 2. JRHT Inaugural Bike Tour (2009)

In addition, to community scoping meetings, Virginia Odyssey bike touring company partnered with DCR to assess opportunities for bike touring. The project included two components: 1) field analysis and scouting to identify a feasible JRHT route, and 2) hosting the actual tour to evaluate conditions and visitor satisfaction. The project received much press and created interest and expanded awareness of the JRHT's on-road bike touring potential. Key accomplishments included:

- December 1-3, 2008, JRHT Corridor Analysis, site visit and route scouting
- August 16-22, 2009, JRHT Inaugural Bike Tour, 16 riders complete tour from Iron Gate (Botetourt Co) to Richmond

#### 3. JRHT Outreach and Mapping Meetings (Fall 2009)

In October 2009, the project team sponsored a series of community meetings designed to publicly introduce the trail concept and solicit input on project goals, local needs, and trail development issues. Meeting locations included: Roanoke, Lynchburg, Scottsville, Richmond, and Jamestown.

Although the meeting formats varied slightly, the following agenda items were covered:

- Introduction to the study purpose, background, work plan components, and timeline.
- Description of study tasks underway or completed, including trail system mapping, and findings from Virginia Odyssey Bike Tour.
- Review and evaluation of project maps including: trail segment location, uses, water trail access sites, visitor amenities, identification of current conditions, gaps, and local needs.
- Facilitated discussion of local issues and concerns regarding the trail system, including coordination, maintenance, recreational use liability, cost/funding, wayfinding, and amenities planning.

#### 4. JRHT Regional Stakeholder Strategy Sessions (Fall 2010)

In November 2010, a second round of stakeholder meetings were convened to share information on progress, and brainstorm options for implementation of the concept. Topics included:

- Review of completed map products (map series showing natural, cultural, and natural resources, population, land use, etc)
- Review and discussion of vision statement alternatives (crafted via previous email discussions).
- Discussion of JRT relationship to related planning processes including Captain John Smith CMP, park master planning, scenic roads, and USFW conservation plans.
- Review of information compiled on key issues, organizational/management options, and funding; and discussion of implementation options including leadership and organizational structure.
- Information on timeline to complete the concept plan draft, process for review and comments, and target date for completing the plan.

Significant portions of the meetings were devoted to sharing ideas on ways to address past leadership, administrative, and coordination shortfalls.

#### 5. Trail Stakeholder E-Communications (Fall 2009-2011)

As part of an ongoing effort to identify and contact all persons with a direct interest in the trail DCR working with local partners compiled a database containing the names of over 350 interested individuals. Throughout the course of the project, a variety of outreach communications were delivered to these stakeholders, including:

- a. Description of the project purpose, work-plan, and timeline
- b. Announcement of community meetings, and public input forums.
- c. Background information, resources, and related data.
- d. Request for input and comment on various components of the plan.

In addition, DCR developed a page on the state's website with information on the trail, the concept plan process, how to receive E-News updates, and where to go for more information:

[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational\\_planning/trailjrh.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/trailjrh.shtml)

#### 6. Outreach Presentations and Coordination Meetings (Fall 2009 – 2011)

During the course of the study, conversations with key stakeholders provided input on specific trail development issues. Presentations to specific interest groups included:

Mechanicsville Rotary Club 10/08  
 James River Outdoors Coalition 1/09  
 James River Advisory Council 09  
 Float Fisherman of Virginia 12/09  
 Upper James River RC&D, 2/10  
 Coastal Canoeists, 4/10

Individual discussions were also held with Bon Secours Health System, TMG Customs Media (publishers of WebMD magazine), James River Association, and CSX (corporate Landowners).

To ensure consistency and coordination among federal, state, and local agencies, conversations were held with DCR staff from Planning and Recreation Resources, State Parks, Soil and Water, and Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance. In December 2009, a presentation and follow-up discussion was held with the Virginia DCR Board (statewide). Meetings were also held with Virginia Department of Forestry, and VA Department of Transportation, as well as staff from the National Park Service.

At the local level, coordination was via key regional planners at Thomas Jefferson Regional Planning District Commission, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission and the Richmond Bike/Ped Commission, and staff from Goochland, Fluvanna and Albemarle counties. All jurisdictions will receive a copy of the draft plan to solicit input from interested officials, and there will be a follow-up Webinar to address questions and concerns prior to final release.

<b>VDOT Contact</b>	<b>Dept.</b>	<b>Contact Date</b>	<b>Contact Date</b>	<b>Contact Date</b>
Ray Varney	Petersburg Residency			11/21/2008
Jeffery Kessler	Lynchburg	1/29/2010	2/8/2010	11/24/2008
Jakob Helmboldt	Statewide		4/9/2009	
Eric Stringfield	Hampton Roads	1/29/2010		
Mark Riblett	Richmond	1/29/2010		
Marshall Barron		1/29/2010		
Michael Gray		1/29/2010		
Terry Short		1/29/2010		
Ian Millikan	Richmond	1/31/2011		
Thomas Hawthorne	Richmond	1/31/2011		
Brent Sprinkel	Culpeper	1/31/2011		
Jim Utterback	Culpeper	1/31/2011		

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Dept.</b>	<b>Contact Date</b>	<b>Contact Date</b>
Goochland	Leigh Dunn/ Tom Coleman	Econ. Dev	4/9/2009	12/1/2008
Powhatan	Brandon Stidham	Planning	Mar-11	
Chesterfield	Heather Barrar	Planning	4/16/2009	
Henrico	Todd Eure	Public Works	5/18/2009	12/10/2008
City of Richmond	Tyler Potterfield		4/27/2009	11/21/2008
City of Hopewell	Malcolm Covington	Parks & Rec.		11/24/2008
Charles City	N/A--VCT			
Prince George	Sharon Williams	Planning	5/1/2009	11/20/2008
Surry	Rhonda Mack			
James City	Phil Mease	Parks	4/13/2009	11/25/2008
Newport News	David Watson	Planning	4/7/2009	11/5/2009
Hampton	Terry O'Neill	Planning	4/5/2010	11/21/2008
Isle of Wight	Richard Rudnicki		4/9/2009	4/2/2009
City of Suffolk	Scott Mills			11/21/2008
Amherst	J.S. Bryant	Planning	12/8/2008	
Lynchburg	Andrew Reeder	Parks & Rec.	3/26/2009	11/20/2008
Campbell	Paul Harvey	Community Dev.	4/8/2009	11/20/2008
Appomattox	Beckie Nix	Tourism		6/30/2008
Nelson	Fred Boger			11/20/2008
Buckingham				
Cumberland	Michael Cooper		5/4/2009	11/24/2008

Albemarle	Dan Mahon	Parks & Rec.	11/25/2008	6/27/2008
Fluvanna	Dwight Godwin	Parks & Rec.		4/9/2009
Botetourt	Spencer Suter	Asst. to County Admin.		11/21/2008
Rockbridge	Sam Crickenberger	Econ. Dev	4/9/2009	11/20/2008
Williamsburg				

#### PDC Contacts

Bob Crum	RRPDC	1/21/2011
Jennifer Hibbert	CSPDC	1/20/2009
Sarah Eissler	TJPDC	Jan-11
Eddie Wells	RVARC	10/23/2009
	VA's	
Todd Fortune	Heartland	9/4/2009
Kelly Hitchcock	Region 2000	2/12/2010

#### User Contacts (Bicyclists for On-Road Route)

Bruce Drees	HRBPC	4/8/2009
Champe Burnley	RABA	3/1/2010
Jack Huber	RABA	3/1/2010
	Odyssey Adventure	
Ronny Angell	Racing	10/26/2009
Allen Turnbull	Virginia Adventures, LLC	1/14/2009
Ed McCoy	Botetourt	1/29/2010
Maureen Moslow-Benway	Powhatan	8/6/2009

**Appendix \_\_:**  
**Population Change, James Watershed 2008-2010 (by local jurisdiction)**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Provisional 2009</b>	<b>Final 2008</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Percent Growth</b>
Alleghany	16,885	16800	17215	-330	-1.92%
Botetourt	33,299	32942	30496	2,803	9.19%
Craig	5,211	5244	5091	120	2.36%
Roanoke	92,991	91730	85778	7,213	8.41%
Covington	5,957	5958	6303	-346	-5.49%
PDC 5				AVG	2.51%
Bath	4,745	4733	5048	-303	-6.00%
Rockbridge	21,905	21801	20808	1,097	5.27%
Highland	2,273	2272	2536	-263	-10.37%
Augusta	72,114	71559	65615	6,499	9.90%
Buena Vista	6,553	6494	6349	204	3.21%
Lexington	7,282	7141	6867	415	6.04%
PDC 6				AVG	1.34%
Albemarle	95,247	94277	84186	11,061	13.14%
Fluvanna	26,652	26484	20047	6,605	32.95%
Greene	18,112	17887	15244	2,868	18.81%
Nelson	15,519	15683	14,445	1074	7.44%
Louisa	32,926	32436	25,627	7299	28.48%
City of Charlottesville	40,317	39833	40,099	218	0.54%
PDC 10				AVG	16.89%
Amherst	32,839	32578	31894	945	2.96%
Appomattox	14,649	14574	13705	944	6.89%
Bedford	66,856	66460	60371	6,485	10.74%
Campbell	53,237	52701	51078	2,159	4.23%
Lynchburg	72,371	71196	65269	7,102	10.88%
PDC 11				AVG	7.14%
Prince Edward	21,504	21531	19,720	1784	9.05%
Buckingham	16,814	16595	15,623	1191	7.62%
Cumberland	9,995	9804	9,017	978	10.85%
Amelia	13,147	13037	11,400	1747	15.33%
PDC 14				AVG	10.71%
Charles City	6,992	6954	6926	66	0.95%
Chesterfield	307,594	304369	259903	47,691	18.35%
Goochland	21,441	21036	16863	4,578	27.15%
Henrico	296,490	293059	262300	34,190	13.03%
Hanover	98,624	98001	86320	12,304	14.25%
New Kent	17,857	17473	13462	4,395	32.65%
Powhatan	28,106	27634	22377	5,729	25.60%
Richmond	198,102	196867	197790	312	0.16%
PDC 15				AVG	16.52%
Dinwiddie	27,209	27047	24533	2,676	10.91%
Prince George	38,393	37865	33124	5,269	15.91%
Surry	7,164	7121	6829	335	4.91%
Colonial Heights	17,638	17500	16897	741	4.39%
Hopewell	23,326	23342	22277	1,049	4.71%
Petersburg	30,513	30680	33740	-3,227	-9.56%
PDC 19				AVG	5.21%
Isle of Wight	34,977	34687	29728	5,249	17.66%
James City	63,696	62631	48102	15,594	32.42%

York	65,964	65029	56297	9,667	17.17%
Suffolk	83,006	82344	63677	19,329	30.35%
Chesapeake	219,960	217547	199184	20,776	10.43%
Portsmouth	98,124	97626	100565	-2,441	-2.43%
Norfolk	237,764	236106	234403	3,361	1.43%
Virginia Beach	434,412	432696	425257	9,155	2.15%
Hampton	144,749	144479	146437	-1,688	-1.15%
Newport News	182,591	181871	180697	1,894	1.05%
Williamsburg	13,572	13410	11998	1,574	13.12%
PDC 23				AVG	11.11%
TOTAL	3,497,665	3,469,125	3,229,517	268,148	8.30%

Population Estimates for Virginia, Localities, Planning Districts, & Metropolitan Areas: Final 2008 & Provisional 2009

**Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Demographics & Workforce Group, [www.coopercenter.org/demographics](http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics)**